

# PARADISE VALLEY CATCHMENT GROUP QUARTERLY

Kia ora tatou,

Thankfully we have been spared cyclones and torrential downpours and this last little bit of cooler, wet weather has given us a green tinge to what was otherwise a very brown and dry outlook.

Tuesday the 12th March marks two years since the first big flood that caused so much damage to our property, washing out the culvert we share with the Price family and Ray Freeman's in the process, as well as causing cars to float in Stuarts Wildlife Park carpark! It's been a tumultuous couple of years but we are seeing progress and we appreciate the support we have received from our community.

On the 15th Feb I attended a public meeting, along with other Paradise Valley neighbours, to discuss the effects of the April 29th flood in Ngongotahā, what has been done about it, and how people continue to be affected.

It was a very informative, positive, constructive and well run meeting with a number of people, Matt Ward included, giving first hand accounts of how it has impacted their lives. It's great that Matt and Monique have been able to return home, with repairs done to their house, however until some progress is made on the overall management of the stream, they and many others will continue to live in fear when the heavy rains come.

Soon after that meeting, I signed on to be part of the Community Reference Group to represent community views when developing an Action Plan to reduce the risk of and impact of future storm events in Ngongotahā.

Our February afternoon tea meeting at the Hatchery was a productive get together. Those who attended gave feedback on the new Water Monitoring Plan test sites and reviewed the Catchment group Action Plan. Overall, the feedback from the group was to continue working towards the goals identified last year.

An update from our Paradise Valley Catchment Group supporters:

**Robin Pieper, Land Management Officer for Paradise Valley Bay of Plenty Regional Council**, has drafted a proposal for monitoring water quality in the Ngongotahā stream over a 1 year time-frame to identify areas of contamination and prioritise mitigation efforts. She will update us on this at our next meeting, if not before. She would also like to know if you have a significant amount of gorse on your property that you need to get rid of. Please contact her.

**Alec** is keeping us all in the loop with updates from RLC regarding slip repairs near 400 Paradise Valley Rd, so keep an eye out for his emails and let him know if you have any queries to pass on to council.

**Janie Stevenson, NZ Landcare Trust**, recently attended a One Billion Trees workshop with Robin Pieper which was incredibly informative and there are a lot of options for landowners wanting to take advantage of the opportunity to plant, with funding options available to individuals or groups. Janie can organize someone to come and speak to the group if there is interest.

If there is a topic of interest that anyone is keen to learn more about, Janie from NZ Landcare Trust may be able to bring in guest speakers as required. Let me know what you would like to learn more about.

See you at the next PVCG meeting on 1 May at the Paradise Valley Trout Hatchery, if not beforehand.

Nga mihi

Sarah Thomson, Chair  
Paradise Valley Catchment Group.



## Ngongotahā Community Reference Group Established

The Community Reference Group which will help create an Action Plan to reduce the risk of and impact of future storm events in Ngongotahā has been established.

Applications to be on the group were open to the public and project co-ordinator Elva Conroy said she was very pleased with the response from the community.

“Due to the high calibre of applicants, more people were appointed to the Community Reference Group than was initially anticipated.”

Five community members, three iwi representatives and two elected members will make up the group.

Ms Conroy says those selected to be on the group had a strong connection to the community.

“They have a good understanding of the Ngongotahā catchment and community. Some, but not all, were directly affected by the 2018 flood and there is mixed representation of locations within the catchment.”

Lyll Thurston is the Rotorua-based councillor on the group for the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Rotorua Lakes Council last week approved its Rural Community Board Chair, Shirley Trumper, to be their representative on the group.

The Community Reference Group will meet in coming weeks to decide on their work programme and how to connect with the community. They will provide advice and recommendations to both councils and will lead community engagement and consultation around the development of plans for short/medium and long term actions. Elva Conroy from Conroy and Donald Consultants has been appointed project manager.

Sarah Thomson, Chair of the Paradise Valley Catchment Group, will represent the community. She will keep the community in the loop and take feedback to the councils on your behalf, so make sure you let her know your thoughts.

Community Reference Group members:

- Heather Brake
- Simon Short
- Sarah Thomson
- Elliot Pollard
- Keith Garratt

Elected members:

- Lyall Thurston
- Shirley Trumper

Iwi representatives:

- Guy Ngatai  
- nominated by Ngāti Ngararanui Iwi Trust
- Joe Edwards  
- nominated by Ngāti Tura Ngati Te Ngākau
- Te Poari Newton  
- nominated by Ngāti Whakau

**Work already undertaken and in progress includes:**

- A new rain gauge has been installed on Mt Ngongotahā to provide earlier flood warnings.
- Stream flow modelling work on the catchment to assess risks of flooding from different storm scenarios. This is continuing.
- Other Rotorua streams are also being modelled for flood risk assessment and potential intervention works.
- Rotorua Lakes Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council working together to ensure land development and consenting processes are well integrated and reflect new target levels of protection including the effects of climate change.
- The Bay of Plenty Regional Council has been stabilising stream banks with rock armouring, clearing debris from several locations, re-establishing trout habitats and has planted more than 700 native plants to help regenerate the Ngongotahā Stream. Streambed repair and maintenance work is set to continue for all streams running through urban areas, affected by the April 2018 storm event.
- A Ngongotahā community emergency response plan has been created in collaboration with the community and Rotorua Lakes Council civil defence team and sister emergency agencies.

### Project Timeline

- December 2018: Release of flood review report
- February/March 2019: Community reference group established to work through recommendations together with the technical teams
- April/May 2019: Results from catchment modelling work due and preliminary works options developed
- April/May 2019: Community engagement and dialogue on draft suite of options
- July 2019: Finalise options report and highlight delivery timeframes (short/medium/long term including funding scenarios)
- Later 2019 onwards: Presentation of final recommendations to both Councils and progressive implementation of agreed actions once adopted by Councils.

## Update from Shirley Trumper, Chair of Rural Community Board

### Ngongotaha Community Action Plan

Interwoven with the Ngongotaha action plans, is a recommendation for a community emergency plan, which is being drawn up with RLC and BOPRC for Ngongotaha.

Linda Johnson, Rotorua Lakes Council, is very keen to work with a number of groups in this very field, if you think having a plan for the catchment is a great idea, please feel free to contact her.

### Elections

A reminder this is election year – 12 October 2019.

If there are any budding Board members who want to become part of the solution to helping the rural community, then please feel free to contact me or attend a Board meeting or 2 to get the gist of what we do. The Board has over 9,500 constituents, 9 regions and 3 main villages. Minimum commitment is 2 meetings per month, council workshop attendances and representing the wider rural community.

### Board Projects currently under consideration:

- Establishing a Rural Emergency group in conjunction with rural professionals and council staff
- The Board will establish a small working party with council staff, to discuss road policies, to review whether current policy meets today's needs
- Village projects such as upgrades / public amenities / playgrounds
- Large scale project around Lake Rerewhakaaitu
- Rubbish dumping on rural roads
- What other suggestions would you like the Rural Board to consider

### Climate Change and potential consequences to Rural residents

Most of you will be well aware that climate change is here and damaging. What does concern me though is the number of parties all wanting their piece of the action without a coordinated and carefully constructed collaborative plan. RLC is no exception, so I am adamant that No Plan can be drafted without consultation around the consequences the rural community could potentially face. I will keep you updated as Council meet 28 March to discuss this in a workshop.



## Rotorua Lakes Council Neighbourhood Matching Fund

The purpose of this fund is to bring people together to build stronger communities and neighbourhoods by providing resources for self-help projects, which link to Rotorua 2030 goals.

The priorities for this fund include:

- Bringing people together to collaborate on neighbourhood projects.
- Empowering people to enhance and strengthen their own neighbourhood.
- Contributing to families and whanau working, playing and talking together.
- Renewing and revitalising of places and spaces within neighbourhoods.
- Improving the quality of life in a specific community or neighbourhood.

Every grant is matched by neighbourhood or community resources of volunteer labour, donated materials, donated professional services, or cash.

There are two funding options within the Neighbourhood Matching Fund (NMF). The first is Small NMF grants, which are available throughout the year with up to \$5,000 available per application, with a minimum grant of \$50. Groups who are seeking larger amounts of funding for their projects should apply to Large NMF grants. The Large NMF grant has a minimum grant of \$5,001 and a maximum of \$20,000.

The Large NMF fund opened on 1 February and will close on 21 March 2019.

Contact [rosemary.viskovic@rotorualc.nz](mailto:rosemary.viskovic@rotorualc.nz) for more information or to receive an application form.

### Upcoming Rural Community Board meetings:

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|----------|--|
| 18 March | 1pm, Committee room 1, Rotorua Lakes Council |
| April    | Workshop, dates and local venues tbc         |
| 20 May   | 1pm, Committee Room 1, Rotorua Lakes Council |
| June     | Workshop, dates and local venues tbc         |

All Board meetings are open for anyone to attend and participate in the open forum section, where applicable.

## Paradise Valley Roding Update

### Peter Dine, Rotorua Lakes Council

The stabilisation of the major underslip on Paradise Valley Road has proven to be a difficult job however progress is now being made.

- The design has been changed as a result of on-going stability concerns resulting in unacceptable health and safety risks
- The original design of a reinforced earth wall required considerable manual labour under the slipface which was unable to be stabilised sufficiently to allow such work to be undertaken safely
- The design now is for a machine placed rock abutment which minimises the need for workers to be exposed to risk. The rock also allows for controlled drainage of springs which is the source of the stability concerns
- The toe still requires a sheetpile wall which will protect from the active stream downcutting which is occurring. Establishment of a stable toe is the most critical part of this project irrespective of design
- Installation of the sheetpiling is now progressing, currently 50% complete and planned to be finished this week. Once in place the reinstatement work will proceed reasonably quickly

Rotorua Lakes Council, along with design consultants and contractors, have put considerable thought and detailed investigation into methodologies and solutions to this issue including second opinions from geotechnical engineers on the best and safe methods to stabilise the slip. If you would like to be kept up to date with more current roding information, please join our email list by contacting Alec Martin at [alz99@live.com](mailto:alz99@live.com).

Sheetpiling in progress.



## Ford Farm Field Trip

On Friday 8th March, a group of interested BOP Regional Council staff and local Paradise Valley landowners ventured across the hills in 4WDs with John Ford on Highlands Station. The group was specifically interested in the 300 retention dams that John, his dad and his farm team have built over the past 80 years.

Of the farm's 1270 hectares, 25% is in native bush and is covenanted by QE2 and 900 hectares is pasture and supports 900 bulls and 4000 ewes and hoggets. At one stage, deer was a standard sight in the paddocks, as John's father had the third deer farming license in the country.

Like Paradise Valley land, John's farm is hilly and gets a lot of rain. Protecting infrastructure and fencing by slowing the flow of water was of utmost importance to John's father so he started to experiment with building small dams to collect heavy rain water and allow it to seep out slowly.

John has continued his father's legacy by building more with his digger, particularly in areas prone to erosion.

Sarah Thomson was particularly impressed. "His approach is to protect his farm infrastructure, and in doing so, he reduces overland water flow and sediment run off as well as P & N leaching by default," she said. "His solutions are practical, effective and simple."

For more information about John's retention dams, please contact Sarah Thomson.

### Contacts:

#### Chair:

Sarah Thomson  
[sarah.r.thomson@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.r.thomson@gmail.com)  
022 0624 986

#### Communications:

Alec Martin  
[alz99@live.com](mailto:alz99@live.com)

#### Support:

Robin Pieper  
BOP Regional Council  
[robin.pieper@boprc.govt.nz](mailto:robin.pieper@boprc.govt.nz)  
0275575704

Janie Stevenson  
NZ Landcare Trust  
[janie.stevenson@landcare.org.nz](mailto:janie.stevenson@landcare.org.nz)  
0275 750574

The Paradise Valley Catchment Group officially formed in May 2018 and is guided by their Community Catchment Plan. They meet quarterly and all are welcome to attend their meetings.

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Next meeting is Wednesday 1 May at the Paradise Valley Trout Hatchery.